



# US 51 Needs Assessment

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT 1

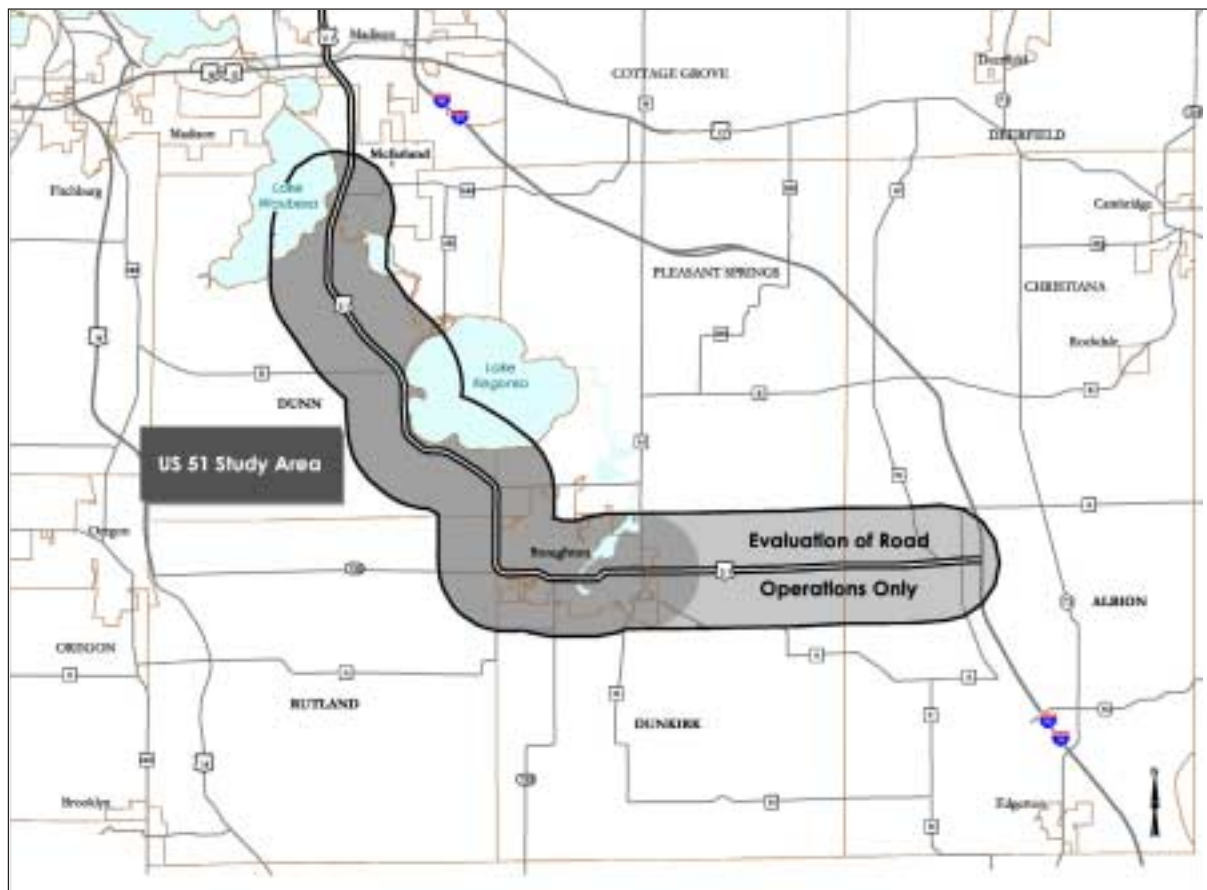
## Study introduction and purpose

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is beginning an in-depth study to review and analyze transportation needs for the US 51 corridor between the city of Stoughton and village of McFarland.

The study team will gather and analyze data on existing traffic counts, crash history,

environmental resources, and existing and projected future land use. It will also study operational problems on US 51 from the city of Stoughton east to I-39/90. This study will not examine possible improvements to the road. It is only intended to document existing and future problems with the road as it exists today.

The US 51 Needs Assessment will be completed in early 2004.



## Upcoming participation opportunities

There will be a number of opportunities for the public, local officials, and county, state, and federal agencies to provide input and comments during the Needs Assessment. This newsletter is the first in a series of three newsletters that will be distributed over the next year to inform area residents about the project and current opportunities for public participation in the process.

### Focus groups

The US 51 Needs Assessment Policy Committee is currently selecting individuals from local businesses, industry leaders, the farming community, and local governments to participate in a series of focus groups. The purpose of the focus groups is to help the Study Team identify and prioritize the transportation needs of US 51 from local perspectives.

### Transportation needs survey

Please look for the second newsletter in June. The second newsletter will include a summary of findings from the focus groups and a transportation needs survey. The transportation needs survey will ask you to provide the study team with your experiences and your opinions regarding US 51 between Stoughton and McFarland. The success and accuracy of that survey will depend on you.

### Needs Assessment workshops

The Study Team will host three Needs Assessment workshops in early Fall 2003. To update the public on the Needs Assessment process, workshops will be held in McFarland, Stoughton, and in one of the rural towns. These workshops will give the public the opportunity to provide input on the vision for the future of US 51 based on the transportation needs and findings identified during the study.



## Other WisDOT studies

WisDOT is currently conducting several other studies near the Stoughton to McFarland corridor:

### Stoughton Road Needs Assessment

The Stoughton Road Needs Assessment is examining existing and future conditions for Stoughton Road from the village of McFarland north through the city of Madison to I-39/90/94. The Stoughton Road Needs Assessment is expected to be completed in spring 2003. For more information, contact Barb Feeney at (608) 246-3869.

### West Beltline/Verona Road Corridor Study

This study examines the West Beltline Corridor of US 12/14 between Todd Drive and University Avenue, as well as the US 151/Verona Road corridor between the Beltline and County PD. WisDOT conducted a Needs Assessment for the West Beltline/Verona Road corridors in 1997–1998, and an Alternatives Analysis in 1999–2001. One of the highway alternatives considered was the “South Reliever Corridor” located generally along the County M and County B corridors through the southern portions of the city of Fitchburg and town of Dunn. The South Reliever Corridor alternative was eliminated from consideration because it

did not meet the travel needs of traffic in the West Beltline/Verona Road system. WisDOT is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement that plans for long-term infrastructure improvements to the existing Beltline and Verona Road corridors. The West Beltline/Verona Road Study will be concluding in 2003. For more information, contact John Steiner at (608) 246-3862.

### **Interstate 39/90 Corridor Study**

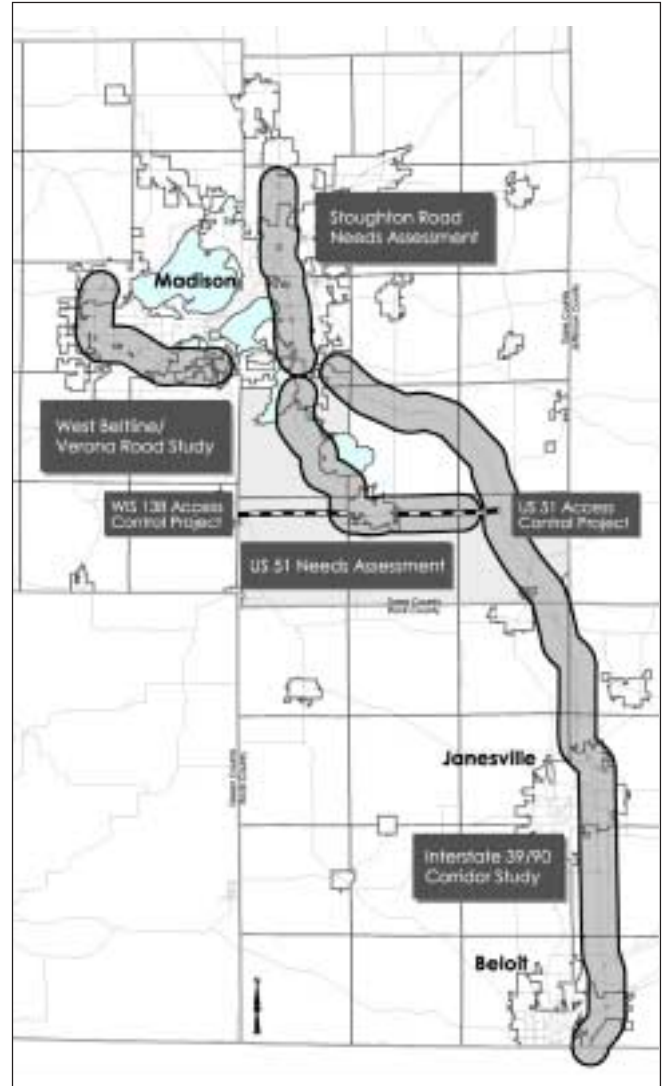
This study examines the I-39/90 Corridor between Madison and the Illinois State Line. The I-39/90 Study began in early 2003 and is projected to continue into 2004. It will examine the need for converting this four-lane route to a six-lane route. For more information, contact John Steiner at (608) 246-3862.

### **Access control projects: WIS 138 and US 51**

WisDOT is working on access control projects along six miles of WIS 138, from US 14 to the west limits of Stoughton; and along six miles of US 51, from the east Stoughton limits to I-39/90.

These projects involve identifying existing driveways and issuing authorizations to their property owners. Additional driveway permits will be issued in the future if new driveways serve the public interest and do not jeopardize the safety of highway travelers. WisDOT will work with property owners who, in the future, wish to make changes to their property that might require changes to the approved access plan.

The goal of the projects is to preserve the safety of these highways in order to delay or eliminate the need for their future expansion. These projects will be concluding in 2003. For more information, contact Jim Merriman at (608) 246-3848.



### **Contact Information**

If you have questions or concerns about this project, you may contact the following representatives:

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